

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new) (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-20 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system ~~made up of~~ including a plurality of information terminals provided with communications means, and servers connected to the information terminals via ~~communications~~ communication lines responsive to the communications means, the text messaging system comprising:

transmission means provided in the information terminals for transmitting to the servers text messages addressed to other of the information terminals;

reception means provided in the information terminals for receiving from the servers a text message from other of the information terminals;

status detection means provided in the information terminals for detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least a status of the connection with the ~~communications~~ communication lines;

reception means provided in the servers for receiving text messages from any one of the information terminals;

~~transmission means provided in the servers for transmitting text messages received from ones of the information terminals to others of the information terminals;~~

~~status administration means provided in the servers for holding storing, per user of any one of the information[(-)] terminal terminals, the operational status of the information terminals reported from said status detection means; and~~

~~decision means provided in the servers for referring to the information terminal operational status stored by the status administration means of an information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal, and for deciding transmission modes for the received text messages according to the information terminal operational status; and~~

~~transmission means provided in the servers for transmitting text messages received from the information terminals to the destination information terminal according to the transmission modes determined by the decision means.~~

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2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system made up of at least one including a mobile terminal and at least one an information terminal respectively provided with communication means, and at least one a server connected to the at least one mobile terminal and to the at least one information terminal via at least one a communications line responsive to the communications means, the text messaging system comprising:

transmission means provided in the at least one information terminal for transmitting to the at least one server text messages addressed to the at least one mobile terminal, or to at least one other another information terminal, wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;

reception means provided in the at least one information terminal for receiving from the at least one server text messages from the at least one mobile terminal, or from at least one other another information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;

status detection means provided in the at least one information terminal for detecting and reporting to the at least one server an operational status of the information terminals including at least a status of the connection with the at least one communications line;

reception means provided in the at least one server for receiving text messages from the at least one mobile terminal or the at least one information terminal;

transmission means provided in the at least one server for transmitting to the at least one information terminal text messages received from the at least one mobile terminal, and transmitting to the at least one mobile terminal text messages received from the at least one information terminal, or transmitting text messages received from the at least one mobile terminal or the at least one information terminal to at least one other mobile terminal or to at least one other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality of either;

status administration means provided in the at least one server for holding, per user of the information terminal, an information-terminal operational status reported from said status detection means; and

decision means provided in the at least one server for referring to the information terminal operational status stored by the status administration means of an information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal, and for deciding transmission modes for the received text messages according to the information terminal operational status; and

transmission means provided in the server for transmitting to the information terminal text messages received from the mobile terminal, and transmitting to the mobile terminal text messages received from the information terminal, or transmitting text messages received from the mobile terminal or the information terminal to another mobile terminal or to another information terminal according to the transmission modes determined by the decision means, wherein the system includes a plurality of either.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 2, wherein:

said status detection means further detects and reports to the at least one server whether the at least one information terminal is being used; and

said decision means if the at least one, upon the information terminal is being used decides the at least one information terminal to be a transmission destination for text messages.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 2, the at least one information terminal further being provided with service detection means for detecting and for reporting to the at least one server network-application operational status in the at least one information terminal, wherein:

said status administration means holds the reported network-application operational status; and

said decision means, wherein the network application is operable on the at least one server, decides to transmit received text messages using the network application if the network application is running on the at least one information terminal.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 2, wherein said transmission means is enabled to notify the at least one server that a text message has been read, further comprising:

reporting administration means provided in the at least one server for saving text messages transmitted to the at least one information terminal, and, wherein if not notified to the effect that a text message has been read, for forwarding the text message to the at least one mobile terminal.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 5, wherein said reporting administration means forwards to the at least one mobile terminal text messages transmitted to the at least one information terminal in response to change in operational status of the at least one information terminal.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 5, wherein if a text message transmitted to the at least one information terminal is not read within a predetermined time period, said reporting administration means forwards the text message to the at least one mobile terminal.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 5, wherein said reporting administration means in predetermined instances reports to text message send sources that their text messages have been sent to the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 5, wherein if said reporting administration means cannot send a text message to the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal, said reporting administration means stores the text message and reports to the text message send source that its text message has been stored.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 2, wherein:

said status detection means reports to the ~~at least one~~ server text message senders contact phone numbers;

said status administration means holds the reported phone numbers; and wherein a text message is sent from the ~~at least one~~ information terminal to the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal, if the senders' contact phone number has been set, said decision means adds the phone number to and transmits the text message.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 2, further comprising a proxy information terminal connected to the ~~at least one~~ communications line, wherein said proxy information terminal is provided with:

reception means for receiving from the ~~at least one~~ server text messages from the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal;

information acquisition means for obtaining in accordance with the received text messages operational status of ~~at least one~~ other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;

transmission means for transmitting the obtained operational status as a text message to the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal; and

information setting means for setting and reporting to the ~~at least one~~ server an operational status of the ~~at least one~~ other information terminal in accordance with the received text messages.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system made up of ~~at least one~~ including a mobile terminal and ~~at least one~~ an information terminal respectively provided with communication means, a first server connected to the ~~at least one~~ information terminal via ~~a~~ a ~~least one~~ communications line responsive to the communications means, and a second server

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connected to the at least one mobile terminal and to the at least one information terminal via the at least one communications line, the text messaging system comprising:

transmission means provided in the at least one information terminal for transmitting to the second server text messages addressed to the at least one mobile terminal, or to at least one other another information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;

reception means provided in the at least one information terminal for receiving from the second server text messages from the at least one mobile terminal, or from at least one other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;

status detection means provided in the at least one information terminal for detecting and reporting to the first server an operational status of the information terminals including at least status of connection with the at least one communications line;

status administration means provided in the first server for gathering and holding, per user of the information terminals, an information-terminal operational status from the at least one information terminal;

reception means provided in the second server for receiving text messages from the at least one mobile terminal or the at least one information terminal;

~~transmission means provided in the second server for transmitting text messages received from the at least one mobile terminal or the at least one information terminal to at least one other mobile terminal or to at least one other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality of either; and~~

decision means provided in the second server for obtaining from the first server operational status of the at least one information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal, and for deciding a text message transmission mode for received text messages according to the obtained operational status; and

~~transmission means provided in the second server for transmitting text messages received from the mobile terminal or the information terminal to another mobile terminal or a destination information terminal according to the transmission modes determined by the decision means, wherein the system includes a plurality of either.~~

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging system according to claim 12, wherein the at least one information terminal is enabled to notify the second server that a text message has been read, and further comprising:

reporting administration means provided in the second server for saving text messages transmitted to the at least one information terminal, and, wherein not notified to the effect that a text message has been read, for forwarding the text message to the at least one information terminal.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In an information terminal provided with communication means for transmitting and receiving text messages among mobile terminals or other information terminals via communication lines and servers responsive to said communication means, a text messaging device comprising:

transmission means for transmitting to the servers text messages addressed to the mobile terminals or to the other information terminals;

reception means for receiving from the servers text messages from the mobile terminals or from the other information terminals; and

status detection means for detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least status of a connection with the communications lines.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text-messaging server connected to ~~at least one~~ a mobile terminal and ~~at least one~~ an information terminal respectively provided with communication means, via ~~at least one~~ communications line responsive to the communications means, the server comprising:

reception means for receiving text messages from the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal or the ~~at least one~~ information terminal;

transmission means for transmitting text messages received from the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal or the ~~at least one~~ information terminal to ~~at least one other~~ another mobile terminal or to ~~at least one other~~ another information terminal, wherein the server is connected to a plurality of either;

status administration means for receiving and holding, per user of the information terminal, an operational status from the ~~at least one~~ information terminal; and

decision means for referring to the information terminal operational status stored by the status administration means of an information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal, and for deciding transmission modes for the text messages according to the information terminal operational status.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a text messaging program utilized in an information terminal provided with communication means for transmitting and receiving text messages among mobile terminals or other information terminals via communication lines and servers responsive to said communication means, the computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded the text messaging program for executing:

A: a transmission step for transmitting to the servers text messages addressed to the

mobile terminals or to the other information terminals;

B: a reception step for receiving from the servers text messages from the mobile terminals or from the other information terminals; and

C: a status detection step for detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least status of a connection with the communication lines.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium on which is stored a text messaging administration program utilized in a server connected to ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal and ~~at least one~~ information terminal respectively provided with communication means, via ~~at least one~~ communications line responsive to the communications means, the computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded the text messaging administration program for executing:

A: reception step for receiving text messages from the ~~at least one~~ mobile terminal or the ~~at least one~~ information terminal;

B: a transmission step for transmitting received text messages to ~~at least one~~ other mobile terminal or to ~~at least one~~ other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality of either;

C: a status administration step for obtaining and holding, per user of the information terminal, an operational status of the ~~at least one~~ information terminal; and

D: a decision step for deciding text message transmission mode according to the operational status of the ~~at least one~~ information terminal; and

transmitting text messages from the information terminals to a destination information terminal according to the decided text transmission mode.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text messaging method utilized in a server connected to ~~at least one~~ a mobile terminal and ~~at least one~~ an information terminal respectively provided with communication means, via ~~at least one~~ communications line responsive to the communications means, the text messaging method:

~~transmitting and receiving text messages by way of the server between the at least one mobile terminal and the at least one information terminal, or between the at least one mobile terminal and the at least one other mobile terminal wherein the system includes a plurality thereof, or between the at least one information terminal and at least one other another information terminal, wherein the system includes a plurality thereof;~~

~~detecting and reporting to the server an operational status of the ~~at least one~~ information terminal including at least status of connection with the ~~at least one~~ communications line;~~

holding, per user of the information terminal, in the server the operational status of the at least one information terminal; and

~~by means of the server deciding a transmission mode for the received text messages according to the held operational status of the at least one information terminal; and~~

~~transmitting and receiving text messages by way of the server between the mobile terminal and the destination information terminal, or between the mobile terminal and another mobile terminal, wherein the system includes a plurality thereof, or between the information terminal and the destination information terminal, wherein the system includes a plurality thereof, according to the decided transmission modes.~~

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text message transmission and reception method utilized in an information terminal provided with communication means for transmitting and receiving text messages among mobile terminals or other information terminals via communication lines and servers responsive to said communication means, the text message transmission and reception method:

transmitting to the servers text messages addressed to the mobile terminals or to the other information terminals;

receiving from the servers text messages from the mobile terminals or from the other information terminals; and

detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least status of a connection with the communications lines.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A text-messaging administration method for a server connected to at least one a mobile terminal and at least one an information terminal respectively provided with communication means, via at least one a communications line responsive to the communications means, the text-messaging administration method:

receiving from the at least one mobile terminal or the at least one information terminal text messages addressed to the other at least one another mobile terminal or at least one another information terminal, or addressed to at least one other another mobile terminal or to at least one other another information terminal, wherein the system includes a plurality of either;

~~transmitting the received text messages to the other at least one mobile terminal or to at least one information terminal, or addressed to at least one other mobile terminal or to at least one other information terminal wherein the system includes a plurality of either;~~

gathering and holding per a user of the information terminal, an operational status of the at least one information terminal including at least status of connection with the at least one communications line; and

deciding a transmission mode for the received text messages according to the an operational status of the at least one information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal; and

transmitting the received text messages to another mobile terminal or a destination information terminal according to the decided transmission modes.

21. (NEW) A text messaging system including a plurality of information terminals and servers connected to the information terminals via communication lines, comprising:

status detection means provided in the information terminals for detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least a status of a connection with the communication lines;

status administration means provided in the servers for storing, per user of any one of the information terminals, an operational status of the information terminals reported from the status detection means; and

decision means provided in the servers for referring to the information terminal an operational status stored by the status administrations means of an information terminal that is a destination of the text message received from the information terminal, and for determining transmission modes for the received text messages according to the information terminal operational status.

22. (NEW) A text messaging system according to claim 21, further comprising a proxy information terminal, connectable to the communications line, wherein said proxy information terminal is provided with:

information acquisition means for obtaining in accordance with the received text messages an operational status of another information terminal;

transmission means for transmitting the obtained operational status as a text message to the mobile terminal; and

information setting means for setting and reporting to the server an operational status of the other information terminal in accordance with the received text messages.

23. (NEW) A text messaging system including a plurality of information terminals and servers connected to the information terminals via communication lines, comprising:

a detector detecting and reporting to the servers an operational status of the information terminals including at least a status of the connection with the communication lines;

a receiver receiving text messages from any one of the information terminals;

a controller storing, per user of any one of the information terminals, the operational status of the information terminals reported from said status detection means; and

a processor referring to the information terminal operational status stored by the controller and determining transmission modes of the received text messages according to the information terminal operational status.

24. (NEW) The text messaging system according to claim 23, further comprising a proxy information terminal comprising:

a receiver receiving from the server text messages from the mobile terminal and obtaining in accordance with the received text messages operational status of another information terminal;

a transmitter transmitting the obtained operational status as a text message to the mobile terminal; and

a processor setting and reporting to the server an operational status of the other information terminal in accordance with the received text messages.

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